

FILED IN THE  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Dec 21, 2023

SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

6	SOTO et al.,	No. 1:23-cv-03016-EFS
7	BRITO et al.,	1:23-cv-03038-EFS
8	VERA ESQUIVEL et al.,	2:23-cv-00032-EFS
9	GARCIA et al.,	2:23-cv-00047-EFS
10	BRAVO et al.,	2:23-cv-00068-EFS
11	REYNA et al.,	2:23-cv-00108-EFS
12	PINEDA RAMOS et al.,	2:23-cv-00111-EFS
13	ZAMUDIO LEON et al.,	2:23-cv-00117-EFS
14	MARTINEZ et al.,	2:23-cv-00118-EFS
15	MORENO FRAIJO et al.,	2:23-cv-00119-EFS
16	ZAVALA FIGUEROA et al.,	2:23-cv-00122-EFS
17	PEREZ HERANDEZ et al.,	2:23-cv-00124-EFS
18	CAMACHO CARRILLO et al.,	2:23-cv-00125-EFS
19	BARAJAS GALVAN et al.,	2:23-cv-00129-EFS
20	DIAZ-GODINEZ et al.,	2:23-cv-00131-EFS
21	ROJAS et al.,	2:23-cv-00132-EFS
22	PAMATZ VALENCIA et al.,	2:23-cv-00133-EFS

1	MEDINA et al.,	2:23-cv-00134-EFS
2	CANCINO VALDOVINOS et al.,	2:23-cv-00135-EFS
3	FLORES LIMON et al.,	2:23-cv-00137-EFS
4	MONTES et al.,	2:23-cv-00138-EFS
5	LEYVA MORALES et al.,	2:23-cv-00139-EFS
6	CASTREJON et al.,	4:23-cv-05059-EFS
7	CHAVEZ MELLIN et al.,	4:23-cv-05062-EFS
8	IBARRA DIAZ et al.,	4:23-cv-05063-EFS
9	CALDERON et al.,	4:23-cv-05064-EFS
10	ESCALERA MALDONADO et al.,	4:23-cv-05066-EFS
11	RAMIREZ RIVERA et al.,	4:23-cv-05067-EFS
12	JAYED et al.	4:23-cv-05069-EFS

## Plaintiffs,

V.  
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16 LOREN K. MILLER, Director, Nebraska  
17 Service Center, U.S. Citizenship and  
18 Immigration Services, in his official  
19 capacity as well as his successors and  
20 assigns; ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS,  
21 Secretary, U.S. Department of  
22 Homeland Security, in his official  
capacity as well as his successors and  
assigns; UR MENDOZA JADDOU,  
Director, U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services, in her official  
capacity as well as her successor and  
assigns; ANTONY J. BLINKEN,  
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of  
State, in his official capacity as well as

**ORDER GRANTING  
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO  
DISMISS AND DIRECTING ENTRY  
OF JUDGMENT IN DEFENDANTS'  
FAVOR**

his successors and assigns; PHILLIP SLATTERY, Director, National Visa Center, U.S. Department of State, in his official capacity as well as his successors and assigns; AND RICHARD C. VISEK, Acting Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, in his official capacity as well as his successors and assigns,

## Defendants.

Plaintiffs have waited years for the government to process their applications—or their family member’s applications—for citizenship. Tired of waiting, Plaintiffs filed these lawsuits. Plaintiffs’ frustration with the delay is understandable. But as is explained below, Defendants are correct that the judiciary lacks the power to direct them to act on the filed I-601A applications and Plaintiffs’ claims relating to the DS-260 applications are premature.

## I. BACKGROUND

## A. Immigration Process

A foreign citizen seeking to live permanently in the United States requires an immigrant visa.<sup>1</sup> Here, each noncitizen-Plaintiff seeks an immigrant visa on the grounds that they have a close family relationship with a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR).

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dep’t of State, Family Immigration,  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/family-immigration.html> (last visited Dec. 19, 2023).

1 To obtain an immigrant visa based on a close family relationship with a U.S.  
2 citizen or LPR is a multi-step process.<sup>2</sup> The first step under the Immigration and  
3 Nationality Act (INA) is for the relative, who is a U.S. citizen or LPR, to file a  
4 Petition for Alien Relative—using Form I-130—with USCIS on behalf of his or her  
5 noncitizen family member to classify that noncitizen as an immigrant relative.<sup>3</sup>  
6 Here, Plaintiffs satisfied this step: a Form I-130 petition was filed and fee paid to  
7 classify the noncitizen as an immigrant relative. The Form I-130 petitions were  
8 approved by USCIS.

9 If the “immigrant relative” desires to continue to reside in the United States  
10 with their U.S. citizen/LPR family member during the immigration process, the  
11 next step in the immigration process can involve the immigrant relative applying  
12 for an I-601A Provisional Unlawful Presence Waiver. The filing of the I-601A  
13 application is a necessary step in the immigration process because, by remaining in  
14 the United States, the noncitizen is at odds with other immigration laws. A  
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16 <sup>2</sup> See 8 U.S.C. § 1202 (requiring the alien to be admissible to the United States for  
17 permanent residence and eligible to receive an immigrant visa); 8 U.S.C. § 1255(a)  
18 (directing that all applications for an immigrant visa be adjudicated by a consular  
19 officer); U.S. Dept. of State Foreign Affairs Manual, 9 FAM 504.1-3(a)(2) (requiring,  
20 subject to narrow exceptions, an immigrant visa applicant to appear for an  
21 interview).

22 <sup>3</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(i).

1 noncitizen who has been unlawfully in the United States for more than 180 days is  
2 deemed inadmissible for immigration benefits for a specified period of time  
3 following their departure or removal from the United States—and as discussed  
4 below, they must depart the United States as part of the process to obtain an  
5 immigrant visa.<sup>4</sup> So, noncitizens who remain in the United States with their U.S.  
6 citizen/LPR family member for 180 days or more must seek relief from being  
7 deemed inadmissible by filing an I-601A application with USCIS.<sup>5</sup> To establish  
8 eligibility for an I-601A waiver, the noncitizen “immigrant relative” must show that  
9 they are “the spouse or son or daughter of a United States citizen or” LPR and that  
10 refusing them entry “would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully

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15 <sup>4</sup> See *id.* § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i). This period of inadmissibility depends on how long the  
16 noncitizen was unlawfully present: usually the period of inadmissibility is three  
17 years if the noncitizen was present for less than a year, and ten years if the  
18 noncitizen was present for a year or more. *Id.*; see also 8 C.F.R. § 212.7(e).

19 <sup>5</sup> The statute refers to the Attorney General, but Congress transferred enforcement  
20 of immigration laws to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Pub. L. No. 107-296, §  
21 402, 116 Stat. 2135, 2178 (2002). For ease of reading, the Court refers to Homeland  
22 Security as USCIS.

1 resident spouse or parent" of the noncitizen.<sup>6</sup> The USCIS has "sole discretion" to  
2 determine whether to grant an I-601A application for a waiver.<sup>7</sup>

3       If USCIS grants the I-601A application, the immigration-benefits process  
4 moves to the next step, which involves filing an Immigrant Visa and Alien  
5 Registration Application, DS-260, with the State Department.<sup>8</sup> The State  
6 Department's National Visa Center (NVC) ensures that all fees have been paid and  
7 that the required documents have been submitted. Once NVC determines the DS-  
8 260 application is documentarily complete and a visa number is available, NVC  
9 schedules an appointment for the noncitizen to appear for an interview at a U.S.  
10 embassy or consulate.<sup>9</sup> If the DS-260 is approved, the applicant receives by mail a

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12       <sup>6</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v).

13       <sup>7</sup> *Id.*

14       <sup>8</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1202(h) (requiring every nonimmigrant visa applicant to attend an in-  
15 person interview with a consular official); 8 C.F.R. § 212.7(e)(12); 9 *Foreign Affairs*  
16 *Manual* 302.11-3(D)(1)(b)(3)(C). The DS-260 may also be filed while the I-601A  
17 application is pending, however, the State Department will take no action on the  
18 DS-260 application until the USCIS rules on the I-601A application.

19       <sup>9</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1153(e)(1) (specifying the number of family-sponsored immigrant visas  
20 that can be allocated and requiring immigrant visas to "be issued to eligible  
21 immigrants in the order in which a petition in behalf of each such immigrant is  
22 filed. . .").

1 passport with an immigrant visa stamp along with a sealed envelope containing  
2 official documents. The applicant then has four weeks to enter the United States.  
3 Upon entering the United States, the applicant will receive the actual “green card”  
4 mailed to their U.S. address.

5 **B. Litigation**

6 An I-601A application is pending for each of the noncitizen-Plaintiffs, with  
7 the most recent at-issue I-601A application filed on July 29, 2022, and the oldest at-  
8 issue I-601A application filed almost four years ago. Plaintiffs ask the Court to  
9 compel USCIS to process the I-601A applications for waiver of unlawful presence  
10 and, once that process is complete, to compel the State Department to schedule the  
11 interviews for DS-260 immigrant visa applications. Plaintiffs seek this relief  
12 pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and through a writ of  
13 mandamus.<sup>10</sup>

14 Defendants acknowledge the passage of time since the applications were  
15 filed. But Defendants argue dismissal of these lawsuits is required because 1) the  
16 immigration laws divest courts of jurisdiction to review matters concerning the I-  
17 601A applications, 2) Plaintiffs lack constitutional standing to assert these claims,  
18 3) Plaintiffs’ claims against the State Department actors are not ripe, and 4)  
19 Plaintiffs fail to state a plausible claim for unreasonable delay. As is explained  
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21 <sup>10</sup> See 5 U.S.C. §§ 555, 701 *et seq.* (APA); 28 U.S.C. § 1331; 28 U.S.C. § 2201  
22 (Declaratory Judgment Act).

1 below, the Court lacks jurisdiction to hear Plaintiffs' claims related to the I-601A  
2 applications and the claims against the State Department related to DS-260  
3 applications are premature.

4 **II. STANDARDS**

5 **A. Motion to Dismiss Standards**

6 Defendants seek dismissal of the lawsuit pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil  
7 Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6). As the party seeking dismissal, Defendants have  
8 the burden of establishing that dismissal is appropriate.<sup>11</sup> A Rule 12(b)(1) motion  
9 seeks dismissal for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. “A Rule 12(b)(1) jurisdictional  
10 attack may be facial or factual.”<sup>12</sup> The court’s review of a facial attack is limited to  
11 the allegations in the complaint whereas the court “need not presume the  
12 truthfulness of the plaintiff’s allegations” in a factual attack and can consider the  
13 evidence outside the complaint.<sup>13</sup>

14 **B. APA and Mandamus Standards**

15 To bring an APA claim, the plaintiff must suffer a “legal wrong because of  
16 agency action, or [be] adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action.”<sup>14</sup> For  
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18 <sup>11</sup> *Thompson v. McCombe*, 99 F.3d 352, 352 (9th Cir. 1996).

19 <sup>12</sup> *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004).

20 <sup>13</sup> *Id.*

21 <sup>14</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 702; see *Gonzalez v. Cuccinelli*, 985 F.3d 357, 365 (4th Cir. 2021) (citing  
22 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as the basis for subject-matter jurisdiction over APA claims).

1 instance, under certain circumstances, the APA allows a court to “compel agency  
 2 action unlawfully or unreasonably delayed.”<sup>15</sup> Yet, judicial review under the APA is  
 3 precluded where 1) “statutes preclude judicial review” or 2) “agency action is  
 4 committed to agency discretion by law.”<sup>16</sup>

5 If the relief sought by plaintiffs through a writ of mandamus is essentially  
 6 the same as that sought under the APA, the court may consider the claim under the  
 7 APA.<sup>17</sup> Because Plaintiffs seek the same relief through both their APA claims and  
 8 the requested writs of mandamus, the Court considers the claims under the APA.

### 9                   **III. ANALYSIS**

#### 10       **A. Judicial review of agency delay as to I-601A applications is 11 precluded.**

12       Plaintiffs ask the Court to compel USCIS to adjudicate the I-601A  
 13 applications because USCIS has unreasonably delayed processing these  
 14 applications. Defendants argue the Court lacks jurisdiction to review Plaintiffs’  
 15 unreasonable-delay claim because 1) judicial review is barred by a provision of the  
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17       <sup>15</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 706.

18       <sup>16</sup> *Id.* § 701(a). See also *Vaz v. Neal*, 33 F.4th 1131, 1135–36 (9th Cir. 2022) (citing  
 19 *Norton v. S. Utah Wilderness Alliance*, 542, U.S. 55, 64 (2004)).

20       <sup>17</sup> *Indep. Min. Co v. Babbitt*, 105 F.3d 502, 507 (9th Cir. 1997) (recognizing that  
 21 claims for mandamus relief and claims for relief under the APA seek essentially the  
 22 same relief and therefore have the same proof requirements).

1 INA—8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v)—and 2) USCIS has sole statutory discretion as to  
 2 how and when to rule on unlawful-presence waivers and therefore the APA does not  
 3 allow for judicial review. Because the Court agrees with Defendants' first argument,  
 4 the Court need not reach the second.

5 As mentioned above, Congress created a process that allows noncitizens to  
 6 apply for an unlawful-presence waiver by filing a Form I-601A application.<sup>18</sup>  
 7 Defendants argue that the Court may not consider whether USCIS has  
 8 unreasonably delayed adjudicating I-601A applications because a provision of the  
 9 INA prohibits court review.

10 The relied-on statute provides in relevant part:

11 The Attorney General has sole discretion to waive clause (i) in the case  
 12 of an immigrant who is the spouse or son or daughter of a United States  
 13 citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is  
 14 established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal  
 15 of admission to such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship  
 16 to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such alien. *No court*  
*shall have jurisdiction to review a decision or action by the Attorney*  
*General regarding a waiver under this clause.*<sup>19</sup>

17 Defendants argue this provision restricts court review of any and all actions by  
 18 USCIS regarding I-601A waivers, including the length of time it takes USCIS to  
 19 process waiver applications.

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20 <sup>18</sup> 8 C.F.R. § 212.7(e). *See also* Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers, 78 Fed. Reg.  
 21 536-01, 536 (Jan. 3, 2013).

22 <sup>19</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v) (emphasis added).

1       Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v) bars judicial review of USCIS's delayed  
2 processing of I-601A applications has not yet been decided by the Ninth Circuit—  
3 although there is a pending appeal before the Ninth Circuit.<sup>20</sup> The majority of the  
4 district courts addressing this question have found, for a variety of reasons, that  
5 judicial review is precluded.<sup>21</sup>

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7       <sup>20</sup> *Mercado v. Miller*, No. 2:22-cv-2182-JAD-EJY, 2023 WL 4406292, at \*2-\*3 (D.  
8 Nev. July 7, 2023), *appeal pending*, No. 23-16007 (9th Cir. 2023).

9       <sup>21</sup> Compare cases that allow for judicial review: *Saavedra Estrada v. Mayorkas*, No.  
10 23-2110, 2023 WL 8096897 (E.D. Penn. Nov. 21, 2023), *Lara-Esperanza v.*  
11 *Mayorkas*, No. 23-cv-1415-NYW-MEH, 2023 WL 7003418 (D. Col. Oct. 24, 2023);  
12 *Granados v. United States*, No. 23-cv-0250 et. al, 2023 WL 5831515, at \*3-\*5 (D.  
13 Col. Aug. 23, 2023); *Bamba v. Jaddou*, No. 1:23-cv-0357, 2023 WL 5839593, at \*4  
14 (E.D. Va. Aug. 18, 2023); with cases that do not allow for judicial review: *Singh v.*  
15 *USCIS*, No. 1:23-cv-254, 2023 WL 8359889 (M.D. Penn. Dec. 1, 2023); *Soni v.*  
16 *Jaddou*, --- F.Supp.3d ----, 2023 WL 8004292 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 17, 2023); *Ybarra v.*  
17 *Miller*, No. 4:23cv3082, 2023 WL 7323365 (D. Neb. Nov. 7, 2023); *Reyes Silva v.*  
18 *Miller*, No. 4:23cv3038, 2023 WL 7042347 (D. Neb. Oct. 26, 2023); *Beltran v. Miller*,  
19 No. 4:23-cv-3053-RFR-CRZ, 2023 WL 6958622 (D. Neb. Oct. 20, 2023); *Boczkowski*  
20 *v. Mayorkas*, No. 1:23-cv-2916, ECF No. 16 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 6, 2023); *Lozoya Rodriguez*  
21 *v. Mayorkas*, No. 1:22-cv-0753-JB/LF, ECF No. 22 (D.N.M. Sept. 27, 2023); *Vijay v.*  
22 *Garland*, No. 2:23-cv-0157-SPC-KCD, 2023 WL 6064326, at \*2 (M.D. Fla. Sept. 18,

1       This question is a matter of statutory interpretation. There is a “well-settled  
2 presumption favoring interpretations of statutes that allow judicial review of  
3 administrative action.”<sup>22</sup> Therefore, “clear and convincing evidence of a  
4 congressional intent to preclude judicial review entirely” is needed.<sup>23</sup> This intent  
5 can be found in “specific language in a provision or drawn from the statutory  
6 scheme as a whole.”<sup>24</sup> Courts “must interpret the statute as a whole, giving effect to  
7 each word and making every effort not to interpret a provision in a manner that  
8 renders other provisions of the same statute inconsistent, meaningless, or

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14 2023); *Echeverri v. USCIS*, No. 23-cv-21711-RAR, 2023 WL 5350810, at \*3-\*4 (S.D.  
15 Fla. Aug. 21, 2023); *Mafundu v. Mayorkas*, No. 23-cv-60611-RAR, 2023 WL  
16 5036142, at \*4-\*5 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 8, 2023); *Mercado v. Miller*, No. 2:22-cv-2182-  
17 JAD-EJY, 2023 WL 4406292, at \*2-\*3 (D. Nev. July 7, 2023), *appeal pending*, No.  
18 23-16007 (9th Cir. 2023); *Lovo v. Miller*, No. 5:22-cv-0067, 2023 WL 3550167, at \*2-  
19 \*3 (W.D. Va. May 18, 2023).

20       <sup>22</sup> *McNary v. Haitian Refugee Ctr.*, 498 U.S. 479, 496 (1991).

21       <sup>23</sup> *Reno v. Cath. Soc. Servs.*, 509 U.S. 43, 44 (1993).

22       <sup>24</sup> *Patel v. Garland*, 596 U.S. 328, 347 (2022) (cleaned up).

1 superfluous.”<sup>25</sup> “Phrases must be construed in light of the overall purpose and  
2 structure of the whole statutory scheme.”<sup>26</sup>

3 Here, the at-issue sentence is: “No court shall have jurisdiction to review a  
4 decision or action by . . . [USCIS] regarding a waiver under this clause.”<sup>27</sup> Section  
5 1182 does not define “decision or action.” However, the plain meaning of the  
6 language in this at-issue sentence supports Defendants’ position that judicial  
7 review of USCIS’s I-601A application-processing time is barred.

8 According to Black’s Law Dictionary, “decision” is a “determination [made]  
9 after consideration of the facts and the law, and “action” is “the process of doing  
10 something; conduct or behavior.”<sup>28</sup> Clearly, no “decision” has been made on the  
11 pending I-601A applications. But USCIS has made decisions about how to act on, or  
12 process, the I-601A applications, such as decisions as to staffing and application  
13 procedures, including its first-in-first-out policy. Moreover, the broad phrase  
14 “decision or action” is followed by another broad phrase, “regarding a waiver under

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<sup>25</sup> *Rodriguez v. Sony Computer Entm’t Am.*, 801 F.3d 1045, 1051 (9th Cir. 2015)  
17 (cleaned up).

18 <sup>26</sup> *Id.* (cleaned up).

19 <sup>27</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v).

20 <sup>28</sup> Black’s Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019). *See also Sebelius v. Cloer*, 569 U.S. 369,  
21 376 (2013) (recognizing that “statutory terms are generally interpreted in  
22 accordance with their ordinary meaning).

1 this clause.”<sup>29</sup> “Regarding” “in a legal context generally has a broadening effect,  
2 ensuring that the scope of a provision covers not only its subject but also matters  
3 relating to that subject.”<sup>30</sup> The broad, all-encompassing language in the at-issue  
4 sentence reflects Congress’s intent to allow USCIS to make decisions as to how and  
5 when to process filed I-601A applications.<sup>31</sup> Congress precluded courts from

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8 <sup>29</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v).

9 <sup>30</sup> *Patel v. Garland*, 596 U.S. at 338–39 (cleaned up).

10 <sup>31</sup> Defendants also ask the Court to use the APA’s definition of “action” when  
11 interpreting “action” in 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v). The APA defines “action” as  
12 including the “failure to act.” 5 U.S.C. § 551(13). Because the plain language of the  
13 at-issue INA statute—§ 1182(a)(9)(B)(v)—clearly precludes judicial review of the  
14 reasonableness of the length of time it takes the Attorney General to decide the  
15 merits of an I-601A application, the Court declines use the APA to define “action” in  
16 § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v). Compare *Granados v. United States*, No. 23cv250-MEH, 2023 WL  
17 5831515 (D. Col. Aug. 23, 2023) (declining to apply the APA definition of “agency  
18 action” to § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v), and *Bamba v. Jaddou*, No. 1:23-cv-357, 2023 WL  
19 5839593, at \* 2 (E.D. Va. Aug. 18, 2023) (recognizing that using APA definitions is  
20 only mandatory in the context of the APA itself or if Congress expressly  
21 incorporated such definitions into another statute); *with Mercado v. Miller*, No.  
22 2:22-cv-02182-JAD-EJY, 2023 WL 4406292, at \*2 (D. Nev. July 7, 2023), appeal

1 reviewing whether the amount of time taken by USCIS is unreasonable. The relief  
2 that Plaintiffs seek is relief USCIS—or Congress—can provide, not this Court.<sup>32</sup>  
3 Defendants' motion to dismiss on the grounds that Plaintiffs' I-601A-application  
4 claims are barred by 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v) is granted.

5 Defendants are reminded, however, that although § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v) affords  
6 USCIS sole discretion as to whether to grant an I-610A application, USCIS does not  
7 have discretion as to whether to adjudicate the application. The framework  
8 Congress established for I-610A applications makes clear that USCIS must  
9 adjudicate filed applications filed by eligible aliens. Moreover, Congress has  
10 suggested that the processing of an immigration-benefit application “should be  
11 completed no later than 180 days after the initial filing of the application.”<sup>33</sup>  
12 Timely processing of filed I-601A applications will better serve Congress’s  
13 stated intent.

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16 *filed*, No. 23-16007 (9th Cir. July 17, 2023) (using the APA “agency action”  
17 definition to define “action” in § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v)).

18 <sup>32</sup> See *Babaria v. Blinken*, --- F. 4th ----, 2023 WL 8291303 (9th Cir. Dec. 1, 2023)  
19 (“The long immigrant visa queue imposes significant hardship, and plaintiffs are  
20 understandably frustrated. But in this instance, relief must come from action by the  
21 executive and legislative branches rather the judiciary.”)

22 <sup>33</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1571(b).

**B. Claims related to the DS-260 visas are premature.**

The State Department Defendants seek dismissal of the claims against them on the grounds that the DS-260-visa claims against them are unripe.<sup>34</sup> The State Department prevails on this argument. Because the State Department acts on DS-260 applications, including scheduling interviews, *after* an I-601A application is granted, the claims against the State Department Defendants are premature. For these reasons, the claims against the State Department Defendants are dismissed.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

**Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. Defendants' Motion to Dismiss in each of these cases is **GRANTED**:

- *Soto et al. v. Miller et al.*, 23-cv-3016-MKD, **ECF No. 13**
  - *Brito et al. v. Miller et al.*, 1:23-cv-03038-EFS, **ECF No. 11**
  - *Vera Esquivel et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00032-EFS, **ECF No. 13**

<sup>34</sup> See *Nat'l Park Hosp. Ass'n v. Dep't of Interior*, 538 U.S. 803, 807–08 (2003).

(cleaned up). The basic rationale of the ripeness doctrine is “to prevent the courts, through avoidance of premature adjudication, from entangling themselves in abstract disagreements over administrative policies, and also to protect the agencies from judicial interference until an administrative decision has been formalized and its effects felt in a concrete way by the challenging parties.” *Abbott Lab's v. Gardner*, 387 U.S. 136, 148–49 (1967), abrogated on other grounds.

- 1      • *Garcia et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00047-EFS, **ECF No. 11**
- 2      • *Bravo et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00068-EFS, **ECF No. 11**
- 3      • *Reyna et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00108-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 4      • *Pineda Ramos et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00111-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 5      • *Zamudio Leon et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00117-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 6      • *Martinez et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00118-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 7      • *Moreno Fraijo et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00119-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 8      • *Zavala Figueroa et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00122-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 9      • *Perez Hernandez et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00124-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 10     • *Camacho Carrillo et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00125-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 11     • *Barajas Galvan et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00129-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 12     • *Diaz-Godinez et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00131-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 13     • *Rojas et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00132-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 14     • *Pamatz Valencia et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00133-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 15     • *Medina et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00134-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 16     • *Cancino Valdovinos et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00135-EFS, **ECF No.**  
17        **5**
- 18     • *Flores Limon et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00137-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 19     • *Montes et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00138-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 20     • *Leyva Morales et al. v. Miller et al.*, 2:23-cv-00139-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 21     • *Castrejon et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05059-EFS, **ECF No. 11**
- 22     • *Chavez Mellin et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05062-EFS, **ECF No. 5**

- 1      • *Ibarra Diaz et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05063-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 2      • *Calderon et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05064-EFS, **ECF No. 7**
- 3      • *Escalera Maldonado et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05066-EFS, **ECF**
- 4      **No. 5**

- 5      • *Ramirez Rivera et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05067-EFS, **ECF No. 5**
- 6      • *Jayed et al. v. Miller et al.*, 4:23-cv-05069-EFS, **ECF No. 5**

7      2. The Clerk's Office is to **ENTER Judgment in Defendants' favor in**  
8      **each of these cases** and **CLOSE** the files.

9      IT IS SO ORDERED. The Clerk's Office is directed to enter this Order and  
10     provide copies to all counsel.

11     **DATED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day December 2023.

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14     EDWARD F. SHEA  
15     Senior United States District Judge  
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